

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 738

By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Rotary Club of Nashville for their astute service to the community and to this State.

WHEREAS, this legislative body is proud to specially recognize those service and community-minded organizations that reach out to the community to uplift the citizens of this great State; and

WHEREAS, one such wonderful organization is the Nashville Rotary Club which, comprised of over 450 of the leading business people in the Nashville area, provides opportunities for service and fellowship among community leaders and encourages the contribution of members' time, financial resources, and influence towards meeting the needs of the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, organized by thirteen of Nashville's most progressive businessmen on November 19, 1913, in the office of James A. Cayce, President of B.H. Steif Jewelry Company, the Rotary Club of Nashville was granted Charter Number 94 on February 1, 1914; the members listed as being present at the inaugural meeting were James A. Cayce, Emmett Cooper, C.W. Jennings, Thomas H. Joy, Frank Langham, J.P. Lawrence, Julius Lowenstein, Allen Meadors, S. Walter McGill, Charles Mitchell, W.A. Russell, Henry Teitlebaum, and Roy Williams; and

WHEREAS, from its beginning, the Nashville Rotary Club took an active part in improving the community, and as an integral part of Rotary International, which boasts a membership of over 30,000 clubs with over 1,200,000 members in 164 countries, the Nashville Rotary Club also helps to make the world a better place in which to live; and

WHEREAS, remaining true to its creed, the Nashville Rotary Club lent its invaluable support to the Big Brothers of Nashville, to two new YMCAs, and to the Boy Scout program at

Tennessee Preparatory School in the early days of these organizations; in 1920, the club raised money to buy a farm for Alvin C. York, the famous World War I hero who also became an honorary Nashville Rotarian; and

WHEREAS, during the 1920s the club worked with the Tennessee Crippled Children's Commission, raised funds for earthquake victims in Japan, and began an annual boys' Hobby Fair that lasted until World War II; and

WHEREAS, Nashville Rotarians didn't shy away from service to their country, as 24 members served in World War II, and the club, in support of the war effort and their friends serving overseas, raised money selling war bonds and aided in the purchase of a sub-chaser; and

WHEREAS, Rotarians have sponsored many college scholarships over the years, and continue to lead in this effort today as they award \$36,000 in scholarships to area scholars; and

WHEREAS, from 1977 until 1991, the Nashville Rotary Club, in cooperation with Youthtown in Jackson, established and sponsored a Girls' Ranch on 222 acres of land that the Club owned in Williamson County; the ranch served as a home for 8-10 girls each year, providing those young ladies, who otherwise would have been without an adequate home environment of their own, a stable and loving place in which they could grow and develop during their foundational years; and

WHEREAS, with the sale of the Girls' Ranch, the Rotary Club established a permanent endowment for the Nashville Rotary Foundation, the earnings of which, along with contributions made by club members, provide funds for the club's community service efforts each year; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Nashville Rotary Club began focusing its volunteer work and annual philanthropic donations on one neighborhood, the Fisk/Meharry community, believing that a focused effort could have the greatest impact; the project became dubbed "Rotary Neighbors", with initial efforts focused on affordable housing, youth jobs, and education; and

WHEREAS, fully embracing their motto, "Service Above Self", the Nashville Rotary Club requires that all projects include a "hands-on" volunteer component, with members providing hundreds of hours in volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, in 2003-04, the Rotary Club of Nashville provided over \$140,000 in funding and over 500 volunteer hours in support of various community service projects; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that we recognize the dedication and commitment of this exemplary organization and its members' wonderful community activism and outreach to Tennessee's citizenry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the Rotary Club of Nashville for their impeccable service record to their community, their State, their nation, and to the world as a whole, and extend our best wishes for their every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.